



# **Massachusetts National Guard**

**Public Affairs**

**50 Maple Street, Milford, MA 01757**

## **Media Advisory**

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**August 4, 2006**

### ***Storied Massachusetts Guard Units to Deploy to Balkans***

CONCORD, Mass. -- The Massachusetts National Guard will be holding a farewell ceremony for approximately 300 members of Task Force Patriot, 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8 at Minuteman National Park (Concord Bridge), 174 Liberty Street, Concord.

The task force is comprised of soldiers from Headquarters Detachment, A Troop and B Troop of the 1st Squadron 182nd Cavalry, and A Company 1st Battalion 181st Infantry. The soldiers will be mustered into federal service and will deploy to Kosovo in support of NATO peacekeeping operations, spending approximately 18 months on active duty.

The 182nd Cavalry Squadron and 181st Infantry Battalion are two of the four oldest units in the country, tracing their lineage back to the Massachusetts Bay Colonial Militia founded in 1636. They are also two of only three Army units that carry the Lexington and Concord battle streamer.

"Seeing off these soldiers at Concord Bridge is particularly fitting," said Brig. Gen. Oliver J. Mason Jr., The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard. "Their predecessors earned our freedom there 230 years ago. I'm proud of the Task Force Patriot soldiers and I know they will succeed."

Please join families and friends of these citizen-soldiers and the Massachusetts National Guard in bidding Task Force Patriot farewell.

**MEDIA MUST REGISTER FOR THE EVENT BY CALLING THE ABOVE NUMBER**

**WHAT:** Farewell, Task Force Patriot  
**WHERE:** Minuteman National Park (Concord Bridge), 174 Liberty Street, Concord, MA 01742  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2006 at 11:00 a.m.

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